Exhibit A

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July 16, 2017

John M. Gore, Esq.
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U.S. Department of Justice
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Washington, D.C. 20530

Via Email

Dear Mr. Gore:

As counsel for the Veasey-LULAC private plaintiffs in *Veasey, et al. v. Abbott, et al.*, No. 2:13-cv-00193 (S.D. Tex.), we write to inquire in what capacity the United States addressed the cause of action alleging discriminatory purpose in its recent filing titled "United States Brief Regarding Remedies," Doc. 1052. Even though the United States withdrew its claim alleging discriminatory purpose, *see* Docs. 1001, 1022, fully half of its brief was devoted solely to that issue, including a major section headed "II. S.B. 5 PRECLUDES ENTRY OF AN INJUNCTION OR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT ON THE DISCRIMINATORY PURPOSE CLAIM." Moreover, several statements in this Brief contradict positions taken by the United States in previous filings in this case.

Having withdrawn its claim as to discriminatory purpose, the United States could not be speaking as a plaintiff. It is not a defendant, nor, as a party in the overall case, can it speak as *amicus curiae*. In previous filings in this matter, the United States has refrained from addressing claims raised solely by other parties, such as the poll tax claim.

We believe it was improper for the United States to address the discriminatory purpose claim and we believe this should not be repeated.

We would appreciate your response to two questions:

1. In what capacity did the United States address the discriminatory purpose claim in its opening brief on remedies?
2. If you believe it was not improper to do so, what is your basis for that belief?

Thank you for your attention.

[Signatures on next page]

Very truly yours,

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